

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1 and 35-50 are rejected. New claims 51-53 have been added.

Claims 1, 35-50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,128,298 to Wootton *et al.* (hereafter: "Wootton"). For the reasons discussed below, these claims, as amended, are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 recites an information processing system comprising electronic equipment and a server device, wherein the electronic equipment comprises:

(1a) an electronic equipment identifier storage section for storing an electronic equipment identifier that is information unique to the electronic equipment;

(2a) an index information holding section holding index information that is information for obtaining the electronic equipment identifier; and

(3a) a send information sending section for obtaining the index information from the index information holding section and sending send information containing the index information to the server device, and

the server device comprising:

(1b) an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information;

(2b) an electronic equipment identifier index correspondence management section for storing the electronic equipment identifier corresponded to the index information;

(3b) a send information receiving section for receiving the send information from the electronic equipment; and

(4b) an information accessing section for obtaining the electronic equipment identifier based on the index information contained in the send information received by the send information receiving section.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite novel features associated with the embodiment described, for example, pg. 35, lines 4-9, in which the electronic equipment of the system

includes an electronic equipment identifier storage section for storing an electronic equipment identifier that is information unique to the electronic equipment.

Wooton describes an Internet protocol filter for providing public network or Internet access to a private node. The IP filter 12 is connected to a private network 10 and a public network 14. The private network 10 includes a plurality of nodes 18 each being identified by a unique IP address within the domain of the private network 10.

In one example, the private network 10 sends packets specifying a source of pIP, pPort (private IP address, private port) and a destination of iIP, iPort (public IP address, public port). The IP filter 12 translates this information to frIP (IP address of filter), frPort (index into the translation table plus an offset value) and iIP, iport.

The Internet node 20 replies with a packet (iIP, iPort-frIP, frPort) which is received by the IP filter 12 and translated to (iIP, iport-pIP, pPort).

However, Wooton fails to disclose electronic equipment including:(1a) an index information holding section holding index information that is information for obtaining an electronic equipment identifier as called for in claim 1.

In the Office Action of 14 April 2009, it was asserted that the Internet Node 20 disclosed the recited electronic equipment and the IP filter 12 disclosed the recited server device. Thus, although the Public Node 20 includes a packet having frPort, the frPort packet must identify the Internet Node 20 in order to anticipate claim 1. However, the frPort packet includes information at best identifying the Private Node 18.

Therefore, the Public Node 20 does not include information for obtaining an electronic equipment identifier as called for in claim 1.

Further, Wooton also fails to disclose a server device including (1b) an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information as called for in claim 1.

The examiner has pointed to the IP Filter 12 storing the translation table as disclosing electronic equipment related information. However, the examiner has also pointed to the same translation table as disclosing (2b) an electronic equipment identifier index correspondence

management section for storing the electronic equipment identifier corresponded to the index information.

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) requires that "each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros., Inc. v. Union Oil Co.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Consistent with the principle that all limitations in a claim must be considered to be meaningful, it is improper to rely on the same structure in a single reference as being responsive to two different elements in a claim. *See, Lantech, Inc. v. Keip Machine Co.*, 32 F.3d 542 (Fed. Cir. 1994) (in infringement context, a single conveyor held to not meet claim element requiring at least two conveyors); *In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743 (Fed. Cir. 1999)(claim requiring three separate means not anticipated by structure containing two means where one of the two means was argued to meet two of the three claimed means).

Therefore, it was improper for the examiner to rely upon the translation table stored in the IP Filter 12 to be responsive to both (2b) an electronic equipment identifier index correspondence management section for storing the electronic equipment identifier corresponded to the index information and (1b) an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information.

Accordingly, because Wooten fails to disclose electronic equipment including: (1a) an index information holding section holding index information that is information for obtaining an electronic equipment identifier; and a server device including (1b) an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information as called for in claim 1, the rejection of claim 1, as well as dependent claims 35 and 38, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 39 recites *inter alia* an information processing method for an information processing system including electronic equipment and a server device, the electronic equipment storing an electronic equipment identifier that is information unique to the electronic equipment, the method comprising:

(1a) a send information receiving step of receiving at the server device send information from an electronic equipment, the send information including an address associated with the

server device as a destination address and index information associated with the electronic equipment identifier of the electronic equipment; and

(1b) an information accessing step of obtaining the electronic equipment identifier at the server device based on the index information included in the send information received at the send information receiving step,

wherein the electronic equipment identifier obtained at the information accessing step is similar to the electronic equipment identifier stored at the electronic equipment.

Claim 39 has been amended to clarify that the electronic equipment stores an electronic equipment identifier that is information unique to the electronic equipment as described on, for example, pg. 35, lines 4-9 and that the electronic equipment identifier obtained at the information accessing step is similar to the electronic equipment identifier stored at the electronic equipment as described on, for example, pg. 39, lines 5-15.

In Wooten, although the Public Node 20 includes a packet having frPort, this information identifies a Private Node 18 rather than the Public Node 20. Therefore, the Public Node 20 does not include index information associated with an electronic equipment identifier of the electronic equipment. Further, although in Wooten the IP filter 12 uses the translation table to translate the information frPort to pPort, the value pPort is associated with the node 18 on the private network 10 rather than with the Public Node 20.

Further, although the Public Node 20 uses the frPort to obtain the private IP address of the Private Node 18, amended claim 39 calls for the electronic equipment identifier obtained at the information accessing step to be similar to the electronic equipment identifier stored at the electronic equipment. The Public Node 20 does not store the private IP address of the Private Node 18.

That is, Wooten fails to disclose send information including an index information associated with an electronic equipment identifier of the electronic equipment. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 39, as well as dependent claim 40, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 36 recites the novel embodiment of a server device comprising:

(1a) an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information;

(2a) an electronic equipment identifier index correspondence management section for storing an electronic equipment identifier corresponded to index information;

(3a) a send information receiving section for receiving send information from an electronic equipment, the send information including a packet having a destination address of the server device and the index information; and

(4a) an information accessing section for obtaining the electronic equipment identifier based on the index information contained in the send information received by the send information receiving section.

Wooton fails to disclose (1a) an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information. The examiner has pointed to the translation table as disclosing limitation (1a). However, the examiner has also pointed to the same translation table as disclosing (2a) an electronic equipment identifier index correspondence management section for storing an electronic equipment identifier corresponded to index information.

When alleging that Wooton disclosed limitation (2a), the examiner stated that "IP filter 12 stores Private IP address pIP corresponding to frPort." However, it is the translation table which is used for corresponding the frPort with the private IP address pIP. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, it was improper for the examiner to rely upon the translation table stored in the IP Filter 12 to be responsive to both (2b) an electronic equipment identifier index correspondence management section for storing the electronic equipment identifier corresponded to the index information and (1b) an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information.

Therefore, because Wooton fails to disclose (1a) an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 36, as well as dependent claim 37, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

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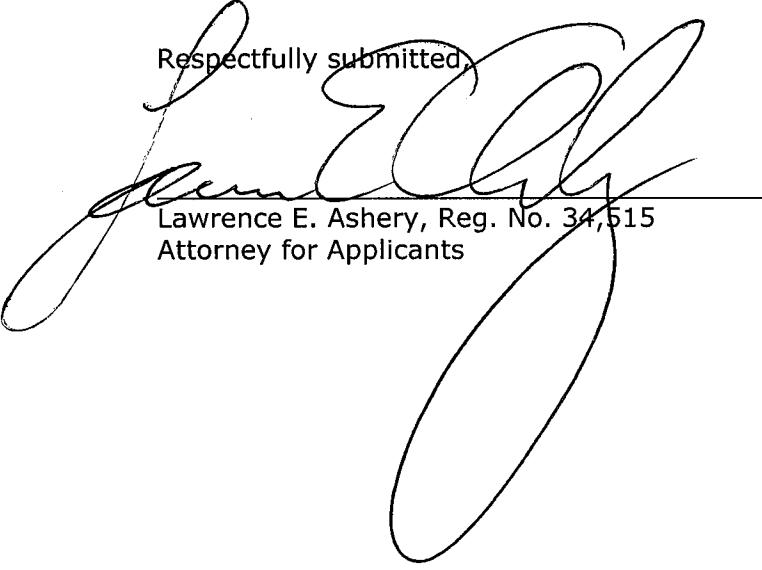
Claims 41-49 depend from claims 1, 36 and 39. Therefore, these claims should be withdrawn for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claims 1, 36 and 39.

Claims 50-52, recite the novel embodiment in which the electronic equipment related information includes an Internet protocol address of a router coupled to the electronic equipment. New claims 50-52 depend from claims 1, 36 and 39. Therefore, these claims should be in condition of allowance for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claims 1, 36 and 39.

New claim 53 depends from claim 36, and further recites that the electronic equipment identifier obtained is similar to the electronic equipment identifier stored at the electronic equipment as described on, for example, pg. 39, lines 5-15. New claim 53 should be in condition for allowance for at least the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claim 36.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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